

WREMAC

MEMORANDUM

To: Western Region EMS Agencies & Providers
From: Michael O'Brien, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, NRP (Chair)
Date: 22 September 2025

Re: Regional Stroke Scale - BEFAST/FAST-ED

Stroke remains a major cause of disability and death in the United States and within the Western Region. As you are well aware, timely identification of stroke symptoms significantly impacts outcomes. Based on recommendations from its Stroke Care Subcommittee, the Western REMAC has voted to adopt the BEFAST and FAST-ED stroke scales for use.

Balance	- Sudden loss of balance or coordination
Eyes	- Sudden vision loss, blurred vision, or double vision
Face	- Drooping on one side of the face, difficulty smiling
Arm	- Weakness or numbness in one arm
Speech	- Difficulty speaking, slurred speech, or trouble understanding speech
Time	- Time last known well/Time to transport to a stroke center

BEFAST is the primary stroke screening tool. FAST-ED is used to screen for Large Vessel Occlusion (LVO) and identify suspected stroke patients that may benefit from transport to a comprehensive stroke center (Buffalo Mercy Hospital or Buffalo General Medical Center).

Education for these scores is provided through the WREMAC Stroke Care Subcommittee. Contact the Subcommittee Chair, Emily James (erowles@chsbuffalo.org), with questions or to arrange training for your agency.